

Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – February 21, 2017
*H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.*

Megan Altomare, Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club of Milford

My name is Megan Altomare and I am the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford. Our Boys & Girls Club is a member of the Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs along with sixteen other Boys & Girls Clubs who combine to serve over 50,000 youth during out of school time all year long. The Boys & Girls Club of Milford serves over 500 youth annually in Milford and surrounding areas and have been doing so for the past seven years. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford members and their families, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to H.B. No. 7027 An Act Concerning The STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

I am compelled to testify to oppose the proposed reduction and consolidation of Neighborhood Youth Center funding into a pool of funds (Student Support Services) designed to serve far too divergent population groups and needs.

Neighborhood Youth Center Funding is integral to the Boys & Girls Club of Milford and our over 500 members that attend yearly. In 2007 a community needs assessment was conducted and it was evident through that study that there was a need for something for the youth of our community to do after school. Thanks to our elected officials and dedicated community the Boys & Girls Club of Milford was born and has seen at least 30% growth in membership annually. The Boys & Girls Club's foundation was laid with this money and has been a huge part in helping us to build our foundation, grow our programs and serve our community. If we were to lose this funding it would definitely jeopardize our program and our ability to continue serving our youth, especially in the same capacity in which we currently do. At a time when the future is so uncertain and our children are struggling with so much they need to be able to count on the Boys & Girls Club more than ever.

Thank you for this opportunity and for being there for the Boys & Girls Club of Milford not just now, but always. I also appreciate the opportunity to testify and to share with you how important this funding is to our organization and the community of Milford. I know you have a lot of hard decisions to make and I urge you to please consider how integral this funding is to our organization and the many amazing children and families we serve.